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Pinkham-1

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12/8/99

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Patent Application of:  
**Pinkham**

Group Art Unit: 3753

Serial No.: 09/311,520

Examiner: **S. Hepperle**

Filing Date: **May 13, 1999**

Date: **NOVEMBER 23, 1999**

For: **Chromatography Valve Assembly**

Assistant Commissioner of Patents  
Washington, DC 20231

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DEC - 3 1999  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3700

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE**

Dear Sir:

In response to the Official Action mailed on August 24, 1999, please amend the above-captioned application as follows:

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the following claims:

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1.(AMENDED) A diverter valve assembly for use in liquid chromatography comprising:  
a unitarily formed valve body;  
a plurality of ports in said valve body, at least one of said ports functioning as an inlet port  
for allowing liquid to enter into said valve body, at least one other of said ports functioning as an  
outlet port for allowing said liquid to exit said valve body, and at least two other ports which may  
function as either inlet or outlet ports with respect to said liquid after said liquid has entered said  
valve body;